

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

RYAN MAYS,

Plaintiff,

V.

ACTING WARDEN CHARLES WARREN,  
et al.,

Defendants.

Civ. No. 22-3700 (NLH) (AMD)

## OPINION

APPEARANCES:

Ryan Mays  
357583  
Hudson County Correctional And Rehabilitation  
30 Hackensack Avenue  
Kearny, NJ 07032

Plaintiff Pro se

HILLMAN, District Judge

Ryan Mays, a state prisoner presently incarcerated in the Hudson County Jail, New Jersey, has submitted a complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. ECF No. 1.

Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 54.3, the Clerk shall not be required to enter any suit, file any paper, issue any process, or render any other service for which a fee is prescribed, unless the fee is paid in advance. Under certain circumstances, however, this Court may permit an indigent plaintiff to proceed in forma pauperis.

The entire fee to be paid in advance of filing a civil complaint is \$402. That fee includes a filing fee of \$350 plus an administrative fee of \$52, for a total of \$402. A prisoner who is granted in forma pauperis status will, instead, be assessed a filing fee of \$350 and will not be responsible for the \$52 administrative fee. A prisoner who is denied in forma pauperis status must pay the full \$402, including the \$350 filing fee and the \$52 administrative fee, before the complaint will be filed.

Title 28, section 1915 of the United States Code establishes certain financial requirements for prisoners who are attempting to bring a civil action in forma pauperis. Under § 1915, a prisoner seeking to bring a civil action in forma pauperis must submit an affidavit, including a statement of all assets and liabilities, which states that the prisoner is unable to pay the fee. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1). The prisoner also must submit a certified copy of his inmate trust fund account statement(s) for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of his complaint. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2). The prisoner must obtain this certified statement from the appropriate official of each correctional facility at which he was or is confined during such six-month period. Id.

If the prisoner is granted in forma pauperis status, the prisoner must pay the full amount of the filing fee, in

installments, as follows. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). In each month that the amount in the prisoner's account exceeds \$10.00, until the filing fee is paid, the agency having custody of the prisoner shall assess, deduct from the prisoner's account, and forward to the Clerk of the Court an installment payment equal to 20% of the preceding month's income credited to the prisoner's account. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2).

Plaintiff may not have known when he submitted this Complaint that he must pay the filing fee, and that even if the full filing fee, or any part of it, has been paid, the Court must dismiss the case if it finds that the action: (1) is frivolous or malicious; (2) fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted; or (3) seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) (in forma pauperis actions). See also 28 U.S.C. § 1915A (dismissal of actions in which prisoner seeks redress from a governmental defendant). If the Court dismisses the case for any of these reasons, § 1915 does not suspend installment payments of the filing fee or permit the prisoner to get back the filing fee, or any part of it, that has already been paid.

If the prisoner has, on three or more prior occasions while incarcerated, brought in federal court an action or appeal that was dismissed on the grounds that it was frivolous or malicious, or that it failed to state a claim upon which relief may be

granted, he cannot bring another action in forma pauperis unless he is in imminent danger of serious physical injury. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

Plaintiff's in forma pauperis application is incomplete because he has not submitted a certified account statement from each facility in which he has been detained for the previous six months. ECF No. 1-1. Plaintiff attaches a letter alleging that prison officials at the Cumberland County Jail refuse to sign account statements for in forma pauperis applications. ECF No. 1-2. However, this letter is dated July 11, 2021 and was written by Tavone Kirkland, another detainee in the Cumberland County Jail who is a plaintiff in a related action.

The Court has taken significant actions in the past year to ensure Cumberland County Jail officials are complying with its orders and § 1915's requirements for in forma pauperis applications. If Plaintiff alleges that prison officials are currently not providing certified account statements, Plaintiff must submit an affidavit with specific facts, including the dates of any requests and the names of involved prison officials, with his revised application.

#### CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, the Clerk of the Court will be ordered to administratively terminate this action, without

filing the Complaint or assessing a filing fee.<sup>1</sup> The Clerk will be directed to reopen the matter once Plaintiff submits a new application or pays the filing fee.

An appropriate Order follows.

Dated: June 16, 2022  
At Camden, New Jersey

s/ Noel L. Hillman  
NOEL L. HILLMAN, U.S.D.J.

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<sup>1</sup> Such an administrative termination is not a “dismissal” for purposes of the statute of limitations, and if the case is reopened pursuant to the terms of the accompanying Order, it is not subject to the statute of limitations time bar if it was originally submitted timely. See Houston v. Lack, 487 U.S. 266 (1988) (prisoner mailbox rule); Papotto v. Hartford Life & Acc. Ins. Co., 731 F.3d 265, 275-76 (3d Cir. 2013) (collecting cases and explaining that a District Court retains jurisdiction over, and can re-open, administratively closed cases).